



NEWS

Contact: Timm Locke, APR
(503) 546-7811
Timm@LockeMPR.com

Photo attached

Contact's innovation gains UC Berkeley's Stanley Hall a higher fire rating

Wrapped soffits allow for the look of wood with properties of aluminum

April 4, 2007 - Portland, Ore –[Contact Industries](#), a worldwide leader in profile wrapping technology recently supplied veneer wrapped soffits for [University of California Berkeley's](#) new bio science building, [Stanley Hall](#). The architect and designer wanted the aesthetic look of cedar but could not use solid wood and still meet the necessary fire codes. Contact's solution was a Western Red Cedar wrapped custom aluminum metal soffit, which provided the look of wood, but the higher fire rating of aluminum.

Stanley Hall is eight stories above ground with three basement levels. The building measures approximately 285,000 gross square feet, which is nearly three times the size of the former Stanley Hall. The first floor teaching and meeting facilities include a 300-seat auditorium, a smaller auditorium for 120, and a multi-media classroom with flexible space for 45-50 that will have state-of-the-art equipment to support teaching and lectures. The laboratory and lab support space is designed with a flexible layout that can easily respond to multidisciplinary research protocols and evolving needs of modern research.

"Stanley Hall's soffits are a perfect example of where our company is headed," said Peter McKibbin, Vice President, Contact Industries. "This was a custom product we had never created before, but when presented with the opportunity, accepted the challenge, and ended up with a new product and an innovative solution and ultimately, a win/win for all involved."

The exterior materials of the new building will also include Sierra granite and copper, materials used on other classical buildings on the UC Berkeley campus such as the Hearst Memorial Mining Building and Doe Library. The development team for the building include [Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership](#), [McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.](#), and [UC Berkeley Capital Projects](#).

As with all Contact products, the soffits are a prime example of extending wood resources and engineering environmentally efficient products. By using veneer wrapping processes, Contact extends resources by up to 50 times, compared to solid wood millwork. A single block of 5/4 solid hardwood might make a single millwork profile, but Contact Industries can get as many as 50 identical products from that same block.

more

Contact Industries has earned recognition as a leader in developing new products to meet the demands of the marketplace. For more information, call 800.547.1038 or visit www.contactind.com.

About Contact Industries

Based in Portland, Oregon, Contact Industries has been providing exceptional products and customer service since 1946. The company employs some 600 people in its manufacturing division in Prineville, Ore., providing sophisticated technology, high-volume production capacity, and innovative sales and merchandising support to customers throughout the world. Manufacturing units at Prineville include lamination, moulding, wrapping, finishing, and veneer prep, as well as new product development and testing and quality standards. By utilizing state-of-the-art manufacturing practices and adhering to the highest quality standards in the industry, Contact Industries has earned recognition as a leader in developing new products to meet the demands of the marketplace. Contact Industries prides itself on making products that are good for the environment – there is no formaldehyde added and the company's use of veneers and fingerjointing leverages valuable renewable resources. In 2006, Contact significantly enhanced its prefinishing services with a new stain and top coat line and UV-curing capability. The state-of-the-art finish line nearly eliminates VOC and HAP emissions while offering the higher quality finishes required for residential and commercial architectural projects.

